

January , 2003

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING AND INVITATION TO COMMENT ON THE
FRANKLIN COUNTY COMMISSIONERS PROPOSED
2003 CONSOLIDATED ACTION PLAN AND
AMENDMENT TO THE 2002 CDBG PROGRAM**

Franklin County invites public review on the requested activities for its Consolidated Action Plan for 2003 and amendment to its 2002 Community Development Block Grant to re-program \$988,761 left over from completed projects. An estimated additional \$3,363,000 will be available as a combination of CDBG, HOME, ESG, and program income.

The Franklin County Commissioners will hold a public hearing on the Consolidated Action Plan at 9 a.m. Tuesday, February 4, 2003 in the Commissioner's hearing room on the 26th floor of the County Government Center, located at 373 S. High Street, immediately following the general session . The deadline for written comments is February 11, 2003. Please address comments to Anthony F. Forte', Director of Community and Economic Development, 25th floor, 373 S. High Street, Columbus, Ohio 43215 or e-mail, afforte@co.franklin.oh.us.

This notice and the draft plan are also available on the Department's web site at www.co.franklin.oh.us/commissioners/ced.

The Consolidated 2003 Action Plan identifies how funds from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will be spent in 2003. (April 1,2003-March 31, 2004)

TARGET AREA REVITALIZATION

CDBG FUNDS

Village of Obetz

\$271,860

This project is designed to resurface all streets in Olde Obetz with a uniform overlayment of 1.5 inches of asphalt. Street lighting will be installed throughout Olde Obetz for the first time. Crosswalks, neighborhood identification signage, decorative traffic control signage and street name signage will be installed to promote public safety and enhance the historic nature of Olde Obetz.

Clinton Township

\$140,000

This project will relieve storm water drainage problems in the University View target area of Clinton Township by replacement of deteriorated storm sewers with larger pipes to increase capacity. \$168,500 is being requested from OPWC to facilitate this project. Project is a renewal of previously funded but cancelled project. 73 low/mod income households benefit from this activity.

Grove City

Reconstruction of Elm Street in Olde Grove City

\$209,075

Priority #1

The Elm Street Reconstruction project involves the removal of 1,474 lineal feet of the existing pavement. Included with this project is a new six inch aggregate base with an asphalt wearing surface. New concrete curb and gutters, concrete sidewalk, concrete drive approaches, and street lighting shall also be included. Drainage improvements will include subsurface underdrains and storm sewer systems. An 8 inch water line replacement will be included. The Olde Grove City Target Area is the site of this project, benefiting 1467 low-mod income persons.

Hilliard

\$238,603

Old Hilliard repair, replace and construct new storm water drainage system. This is a spot blight treatment area.

Prairie Township

\$60,000

Lincoln Village North Street Improvements include the replacement of deteriorated street infrastructure including sidewalk, curb, and driveway approaches; install ADA-compliant curb ramps; mill and overlay pavement.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING OPPORTUNITIES

Home Ownership Programs

Down Payment Assistance **\$175,000**
HOME FUNDS

Forgivable loans to *moderate*-income households to increase homeownership. Up to \$5,000 per household toward down payment and closing costs for a first time homebuyer. After six years loan is forgiven. Thirty-five households will be assisted. A certificate of completion from a HUD approved counseling agency for a full 8 hours Homeownership training is required and a fee will be paid to the counseling agency for the service.

CHDO Development and Operating Funds Set-Aside **\$190,000**
HOME FUNDS

Funds will be awarded to one or more certified Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDO) for the development of affordable homes for first time homebuyers outside the City of Columbus. Funds may be loaned for the development or sponsorship of new or rehabilitated homes, down payment assistance or other costs associated with the development of housing. Funds (\$47,500) will be granted for operating expenses of CHDOs.

HOME Staff Expense **\$95,000**
HOME FUNDS

Staff expense for implementation of certain HOME funded activities.

Home Repair Programs

Home Rehabilitation Loan Program **\$450,000**
HOME FUNDS

Home rehabilitation loans up to \$25,000 that are deferred or forgivable over 11-20 years are made to very low, low and moderate-income homeowners. Loans are used to bring homes into compliance with HUD Decent Safe and Sanitary (DS&S) Standard such as plumbing, electrical and structural. These loans are also available to homeowners whose houses have been found to have lead-paint hazards by the Franklin County Lead Safe Program. Eighteen (18) homes will be rehabilitated.

Westerville Senior Housing **HOME FUNDS** **\$500,000**
Participation with the Columbus Metropolitan
Housing Authority and the National Church
Residence to build an 80 unit Senior Housing
development.

Urgent Need Grants **\$ 50,000**
CDBG FUNDS

Grants to very low and low income single family home owners for up to \$5,000 to repair/replace a major system of a house where failure to do so will threaten the household's immediate health or safety. Grants up to \$7,500 for failed on site septic systems. 8 urgent repairs will be completed.

Handicap Accessibility Grants **\$ 60,000**
CDBG FUNDS

Grants up to \$6,500 per households to remove architectural barriers to entrances and exits from home or apartment, and accessibility to bathrooms and kitchens. 7 households will be assisted. (\$45,000)

Franklin County contracts with the Mid-Ohio Board for Independent Living Environment (MOBILE) to solicit applications from hearing impaired and install adaptive equipment. Ten households will be assisted. (\$15,000)

Home Weatherization Assistance Program **\$150,000**
CDBG FUNDS

Franklin County will issue a contract to weatherize the homes of very low-income families and individuals. These funds can be supplemented with the federal Home Weatherization Assistance Program and Columbia Gas WarmChoice. Approximately fifty households will be assisted.

Housing Services **\$314,000**
CDBG FUNDS

Franklin County contracts with vendors to provide staff services to implement all housing programs. Services include program procedure design, outreach and applications, loan underwriting, feasibility analysis, preparation and review of specifications, bidding, relocation services, construction management, inspections, payment processing and warranty services. Includes staff time for

conducting lead-paint hazard inspections and risk assessments, and lead-paint hazard remediation. Subcontracts for title services, bankruptcy and foreclosure/recapture legal services, plumbing and electrical inspections, credit reports, loan services, lead-paint lab testing and other associated professional services will be sought.

Water Quality Areas CDBG FUNDS \$312,000

Assist Low/mod income homeowners to connect to sanitary sewers in designated areas.

Homeless Programs

Community Shelter Board Homeless Prevention and Transition Program CDBG FUNDS \$125,000

Franklin County contracts with the Community Shelter Board (CSB) which in turn subcontracts with Lutheran Social Services and Friends of the Homeless. Program provides emergency rent/mortgage/utility payments as well as mediation and counseling to enable families and individuals to remain in housing. Also provides rent and deposits to enable homeless households to leave shelters and obtain permanent housing. One hundred thirty-five households are estimated to be served. Includes \$10,000 for Continuum of Care Grant combined application process.

Emergency Shelter Operations ESG \$ 76,000

Provision of essential services for homeless. The Community Shelter Board reviews proposals from homeless shelters and awards grants based on priorities to address emergency shelter needs of homeless population.

Other housing programs

Northwest Counseling Services HOMESHARING program \$39,159
CDBG FUNDS

Franklin County contracts with Northwest Counseling Services to match low and very low-income people with elderly or disabled homeowners in return for chores and services. Homeseekers find that once in Homesharing, their monthly housing cost may be as little as \$50-200 a month. Home providers often receive very affordable in-home help from their homesharing partners and retain

the ability to remain in their own home. An estimated 25 county residents are expected to be assisted.

Home Buyer Counseling Certificates	\$20,000
	CDBG FUNDS

Homebuyer counseling and training is required and a certificate of completion for an 8-hour course from an HUD approved counseling agency for those first time homebuyers using the Down payment Assistance Program. A fee will be paid to the HUD approved counseling agency that conducts the training and provides the Certificate.

<u>ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES</u>	CDBG FUNDS	\$840,000
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Business Development Activities – Revolving Loan Fund \$200,000
Loans available to new and expanding enterprises outside the City of Columbus that create jobs for low and Moderate-income employees.

Gahanna – Reclamation of Bedford landfill for economic expansion.	\$200,000
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Canal Winchester – South Central Property Redevelopment	\$200,000
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Brownfield development implementation Redevelopment and revitalization of contaminated properties.	\$100,000
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Revolving Loan Fund Administration	\$ 40,000
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Micro Enterprise Loans	\$100,000
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ADMINISTRATION AND PLANNING

**\$483,400
CDBG FUNDS**

Grant administration, program management and coordination \$380,400

Franklin County Community and Economic Development Department will provide overall program management and oversee all program design and implementation activities of sub-recipients or contracted services. In addition, the Department will administer the tax incentive program for all Enterprise Zones and three Community Reinvestment Areas, monitor all tax incentive agreements, and provide technical assistance to all local governments on economic development, other tax incentive issues, and brownfields.

Housing Advisory Board \$6,000

The Housing Advisory Board reviews application for Bond and Tax Credit projects for consistency with the Consolidated Plans of Franklin County and the City of Columbus. It monitors completed projects for continued compliance with affordability compliance by the owner/developer.

Planning and Research \$25,000

Fair Housing Services, \$72,000

Franklin County contracts with the Columbus Urban League for the following services: education, advocacy, testing and enforcement of fair housing laws and implementation of Fair Housing Plan.